

TOC H JOURNAL



MAY

1959

PRESENTING NEWS, VIEWS AND IDEAS



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FORTY-SEVEN
FRANCIS STREET - LONDON - S.W.1



This Summer at 'Dor Knap'

Already two weeks at the beginning of August have been booked for a party of senior boys, with a master, from one of our affiliated schools. (Other affiliated schools please copy!) An Anglo-Dutch party, led by Padre Sam Evans, will be there from Saturday, August 15 until Saturday, August 22. A special week for younger Toc H men (especially Keymen), under the leadership of Alec Churcher, will be held from Saturday, August 29 until Saturday, September 5. (Invitation only.)

The following weeks are at present "open" for bookings by small or large parties (maximum about 25) from Areas, Districts, or Branches:—

Saturday, August 22 to Saturday, August 29
Saturday, September 5 to Saturday, September 12
Saturday, September 12 to Saturday, September 19
Cost £3 10s. 0d. per head.

From September 25 onwards week-end parties (Friday evening to Sunday evening 25s. per head) can be booked.

Enquiries to Alec Churcher at Toc H Headquarters.

Acknowledgement

We are indebted to 'Walt' (R. F. Waters) for the cartoon, specially drawn for this Journal, reproduced on page 134.

Advertisements

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the Journal pages very helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries should be sent to Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The Toc H Journal is published monthly, eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year. N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to all Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



MAY 1959

*Letters and articles are welcomed and are
printed as individual points of view only*

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

In and Out	122	Notes and Comment
World Refugee Year	124	<i>Lady Elliot</i>
"Dor Knap"	126	<i>John Callf</i>
Toc H and Politics	128	<i>Ernest W. Snow</i>
Multum in Parvo	131	<i>Much in Little</i>
The Elder Brethren	132	<i>Roll of Honour</i>
Time for Attack	133	<i>Walla Mander</i>
From all Parts	136	<i>Area News</i>
Not too Late	141	<i>Keynotes—10</i>
Branch Banners XXXVII	142	<i>Penge & Anerley</i>
Love in Action	143	<i>Reginald I. Crowl</i>
Open Hustings	145	<i>Readers' Letters</i>
Far Cry, Overseas Notes	147	<i>Geoff Martin</i>
How do we Serve?	149	<i>"The Compass"</i>

COVER PICTURE: "Dor Knap", an ancient Cotswold farmhouse that is to become a Toc H leadership training centre. See article on page 126, also announcement on cover page ii of this issue.

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 47 FRANCIS ST
LONDON SW1 · TELEPHONE VICTORIA 0354



In and Out

notes & comment



Newest Publications

WHEN TELLING AN ENQUIRER WHAT *TOC H* IS about many of us welcome a little practical help. The new illustrated booklet, *A Dream Comes True*, written by John Durham, adequately bridges the gap between introductory leaflets and the more forthcoming publications. Send for a specimen copy (6d., plus 2d. postage) and see for yourself.

No longer do we have to say that *A Pocketful of Prayers for Toc H* is out-of-print, for we are glad to record last month's publication of a new, revised, edition. Cloth-bound and pocket-sized, as befits its title, the cost is 4s. 0d. (plus 3d. postage). Also newly published is a Wall Card which would make an attractive feature in any Branch's room. Reproduced in calligraphic lettering is a memorable quotation from Tubby that runs:

*... Toc H is home.
The place where we are sure of one another.
Here is our workshop of wise character ;
Let duty without discord dwell herein.
Home, work, love, trust,
—these are four binding words.*

'People to People'

FOLLOWING A VISIT OF MEMBERS DURING LAST year's "People to People Week" to a group of foreign students at an agricultural camp (briefly recorded in the November '58 JOURNAL), one of them, Frank Freeman, later revisited the camp and chummed-up with a young Yugo-Slav doctor. He had come to this country for a working holiday and to learn the language, and in conversation mentioned that he would like very much to get some hospital experience while over here. That was enough for Frank, who didn't dismiss it as a wishful thought but started asking questions. He is not a member of the medical profession and knew of no strings to pull ; but he persevered in his inquiries and, after a good many formalities, the young man obtained a post in a York hospital. Since then he has been granted a six-month extension to his stay in Britain and is now working as a house surgeon in a Southampton hospital.

Family Service Units

SINCE F.S.U. COMMENCED OPERATIONS TEN years ago their work has become widely recognized as a sound and practical approach to the problem of neglected children. Their undoubted success depends on the workers being able to establish a creative relationship with the people who are apathetic, indifferent or possibly hostile, and enabling them to want to do something about their problems. This relationship is one in which members of the family are accepted as they are, without criticism and with all their limitations. Often considerable help beyond the F.S.U.'s immediate resources is required, and during 1957-58 F.S.U. workers made over 30,000 contacts with other agencies on behalf of families. A case in point is the call for holiday homes printed elsewhere in this issue. By their work in helping to create a happy family life for children, the F.S.U. goes to the root of many serious social problems.

All Hallows Review

THE FIRST NUMBER OF THE NEW ALL HALLOWS quarterly, *Review*, registered a hit with many readers. Now hot from the press comes the second issue and, in addition to its regular feature of "Question and Answer", Book Reviews and Parish News, there is an article by Tubby, a second article on "The Church in Hong Kong", "Pancake Greaze" by Mayne Elson and "Company of Good Neighbours" by E. N. Stevens. *Review* is published four times a year and an annual subscription costs 3s. 6d., post free.

Flanders Fields

WE HAVE BECOME ACCUSTOMED, ONE MIGHT almost say case-hardened, to the continuous flow of books written by both highly-placed officers and lower-placed 'other ranks' on the parts they played during World War II. But it has been left to one dealing with a particular phase of World War I to provide the saddest, sorriest story of them all. Written by an American airman Leon Wolff, *In Flanders Fields* (Longmans 25s. 0d.) tells of men going into the drawn-out battle of Passchendaele with high courage and of their tremendous endurance when facing terrific hazards, and of an army that was bogged down by mud and halted by slaughter. There are some ugly blots on this tale, where discord displaces unity amongst those who should have known better; but so far as one can judge, the writer has done his utmost to present an unbiased account of the tragic happenings of over forty years ago. With our own roots stretching deep down into World War I, this harrowing record forms an essential part of the Flanders legacy.



World Refugee Year

LADY ELLIOT

THIS YEAR will see a new and vigorous effort, inspired, I am glad to say, by the United Kingdom, to ease, and wherever possible solve, the problem of the refugees. Scattered over the world, they are still to be counted in millions. Many thousands of them are still wasting their lives in camps; many thousands more are still living in misery and want. There is now to be a new onslaught on this twentieth century scandal.

Fired by the success of the International Geophysical Year, fifty-nine nations have agreed to declare and support a World Refugee Year. It is to begin on June 1st, 1959. During the Year, Governments, Voluntary Agencies and the general public will be asked to redouble their efforts to help refugees everywhere find permanent answers to their problems, and in Europe we want to close the camps for good.

The idea of the Year was first suggested by Christopher Chataway, the athlete, and journalists Trevor Philpott and Colin Jones. It was taken up by people of all parties and creeds, and at their request the Government agreed to support the project and recommend it to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In this country an organization, of which I am President, has been set up to further the objects of the Year. H.M. The Queen has graciously consented to be our Patron. The Prime Minister and the Leaders of the Opposition and the Liberal Party are our Vice-Patrons, and we have the support of the Heads of all the Churches and of the Trades Unions. The Churches and Voluntary Societies whose concern it is to care for the refugees sit on our working committee. Thus supported, we have set as the principal task for this country the resettlement or, where this is impossible, the relief, of four groups of refugees: the 160,000 refugees in Europe, with



A corner in the crowded refugee camp at Kolokinthou, Greece.

special emphasis on the closing of camps, but including assistance to out-of-camp refugees; the million Arabs exiled in the Middle East; the 800,000 Chinese refugees who have crowded into Hong Kong; and the 9,000 European refugees in China who are eagerly awaiting a chance to emigrate.

All this will need money. Each year the Churches and Refugee Societies raise for refugees a total of over £500,000. In Refugee Year they hope to double this, so we have set a target of £2,000,000. Splendid help is already coming in. The Government, who have supported us in so many ways, have promised a gift of £100,000. The Lord Mayor of London has generously offered to launch the Year at a Meeting at the Mansion House on June 1st. I have asked the Lord Mayors and Mayors of other cities to take a lead in ensuring the success of the Year in their towns. Now I am appealing to people of goodwill everywhere and particularly to young people, for this is a young people's movement, to do whatever they can to make Refugee Year a success, and so hold out to refugees the helping hand which, beautifully drawn for us by Dame Laura Knight, is to be the symbol of the Year. Further details can be had from the Organizing Secretary, Mr. Peter Casson, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

"DOR KNAP"

JOHN CALLE

Here the Administrator tells how we have acquired the use of an ancient Cotswold farmhouse, and of plans for its development to serve the Movement as a leadership training centre.

SOME OF US have felt for years that Toc H would never be adequately equipped to face the future until it had its own leadership training centre. Every other Society of comparable size seems to have its permanent training apparatus, except Toc H. The Scouts, for instance, have their Gilwell, and it is central to Scout tradition that the pick of their up-and-coming leaders should be sent there for confirmation in the basic practices and principles of Scouting.

For some time we have been looking for a farmhouse kind of property, in a central and attractive part of the country, which we could develop as a simple training centre. A farmhouse, even a derelict one which we could rebuild and adapt largely by our own efforts, was what we sought.

"Little place on the hill"

Now we are thankful to say that by the great generosity of Lord Dulverton, Toc H has been given a lease, at a peppercorn rental, of a Cotswold farmhouse outside Broadway which exceeds even our most optimistic dreams. It is called Dor Knap and, as its name suggests, dates back to pre-Norman times. (We are told that the name is Saxon for "little place on the hill"). The present building is of traditional Cotswold design and the oldest part goes back to Elizabethan times. There will be sufficient accommodation—youth hostel style—for about thirty people, and there are outbuildings which, by our own efforts, we shall be able ultimately to convert to extra use. Its drawing room will make a splendid conference room. A barn will make an excellent chapel. Dor Knap stands on the hillside below Broadway Tower, a mile outside Broadway village, where the local Branch is a power in the land, with a view right across the Vale of Evesham, over to the Malverns and the Welsh mountains. It is ninety miles to London and fifteen to Stratford-upon-Avon.



Dor Knap as it is seen today

Some of the work of conversion can only be done professionally, and for this and for equipment the Central Executive has provided £3,000 from a legacy Toc H received from the late Wilfred Wills, a kinsman of Lord Dulverton. A further £1,000 to retile the entire main section of the roof was generously provided, anonymously, by a member of Toc H who has long felt the need for Toc H to have its own training centre.

This year will be very much a "shake-down" year. Between now and the summer there will be volunteer working parties from the West Midlands and from some of the London Marks and Branches to help to redecorate the place inside, and to restore the lovely garden to its former glory. By the summer holidays we shall be ready to receive our first parties.

The uses of Dor Knap will be varied. First, we shall set aside as many weeks as necessary for the newer and younger Toc H leaders from the Branches. The general pattern for these weeks will be :—

Morning.—Manual work in or around the property. This shared activity will be an important part of the week's experience, as people who have been to Iona or Othona can confirm.

Afternoon.—Free for roaming the Cotswolds, or general recreation.

After supper.—Toc H talks, discussions, arguments.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Atkins, of Toc H Northern Area, will be the resident Wardens, and in addition most weeks will have a guest Toc H leader to lead the training side of the week's activities.

In future years we may be able to have weeks with a special slant such as, for example, weeks for Jobmasters, or Pilots, or Secretaries. Some weeks during the holiday months will be set aside for parties from affiliated schools and at other times of the year we shall encourage the use of Dor Knap as a place for Retreats, or weekend Conferences for those Areas within reach of Broadway. Clearly it will take two or three years before the place is working at full stretch.

And so Toc H has its own leadership training centre—though we shall not call it that, but simply let it be known far and wide as “Dor Knap”. It is up to all of us to make it mean as much within the Toc H tradition as Gilwell means to Scouting, and please God it will come to have a profound influence on the quality of our growing leadership in the years ahead.

Toc H and Politics

ERNEST W. SNOW

IT APPEARS THAT in some Branches of Toc H politics I are not considered a suitable subject for discussion. It might be thought that there is no subject which is more suitable for discussion than politics, if we regard politics, as they ought to be regarded, and as they are defined in the Oxford dictionary, as concerning or in fact as being ‘the science and art of government’. Religion concerns a man’s relations with God and politics those with his fellowmen—on the large scale.

Toc H is nothing if it is not a Movement whose members are more conscious than most of the basic importance of personal relations between man and man. Why then is the discussion of politics eschewed? There may be many reasons. One may be the feeling that there is a necessary contradiction between the small-scale everyday personal intimate associations in which everyone in some degree, except the recluse, is involved, and the large-scale impersonal public organizations whether industrial, municipal or state in which everyone also is involved, and that it is the special function of Toc H to cultivate the former, which may be neglected, whereas the latter is only too much in evidence through the various media of mass communication.

In some minds the term politics, so far from connoting the art and science of government, is synonymous with a 'dirty game' and is best left well alone if one wants to avoid defilement. In such minds politics are associated with party and those actively engaged in it, self-seekers, who at the best are concerned only to gain feathers in their caps and at the worst to feather their own nests. Those less averse may nevertheless be adversely prejudiced by the knowledge that success in practical politics necessarily means a compromising of ideals. 'Politics is the art of the possible' is not an inspiring motto, however true Burke's dictum may be.

All this is a great pity. In Aristotle's view the supreme practical art is Politics—the art of the statesman—since it is the end to which all other sciences and arts are only means and anything which is only a means to an end is necessarily subordinate to the superior ultimate objective.

Advantages gained

The reluctance to discuss politics even in the best and proper sense of the word may spring from the feeling that controversy weakens fellowship. Frank and uninhibited discussion inevitably brings out into the open the fundamental differences between those engaged in the controversy. A conscious cultivation of fellowship may lead us to emphasize the common factors in the fellowship and to play down the differences. No one who holds sincere and passionate opinions on some subjects which are opposed diametrically to those held equally sincerely and passionately by others is likely to be predisposed favourably towards them. But whilst this is true, we must ask ourselves what is the value of a fellowship if its members are intellectually dishonest with each other? No doubt it is quite considerable—much better than nothing—but how much inferior to a fellowship in which all may freely speak their minds without fear of causing offence or at least of losing favour in the eyes of their fellows! We may suffer shocks and disappointments when we hear the views and opinions of those whom we regard as friends but the advantages to be gained by the free exchange of ideas and opinions should immeasurably outweigh the losses.

If a Branch can bring itself to introduce the subject of politics it might well begin by discussing whether the development of politics on party lines, which is the characteristic feature of the British democratic system of representative

government, and is considered by many to be an excellent practical working system, is necessarily the only or the best democratic system. It is not difficult to point out certain disadvantages in a party system. For one thing the working of the system requires that on the great majority of questions the same groups of people—the members of the party—should always agree, and there seems no obvious reason why they should if they were completely uninhibited by party pressures. Otherwise we should have to believe that all political questions can be resolved into two points of view—or as many points of view as there are parties—each of which arises naturally from a basic philosophy on which the party is founded. Only in a very broad sense does this seem to be true. The greater the number of parties that are allowed to develop in order to provide for a greater number of points of view and opinion, the weaker does the system become and in extreme cases the parliamentary system may become discredited and government weak and inefficient as many consider to have happened in France. There seems to be a paradox here and a nice subject for discussion.

Ahead
for
Quality

WELL MADE
WELL PACKED

SENIOR SERVICE
Satisfy

SENIOR SERVICE
The Perfection of Cigarette Luxury

Multum in Parvo

much in little



☞ The CENTRAL COUNCIL met in Derbyshire on April 17-19. An account of this Annual Meeting will be given in next month's JOURNAL.

☞ News of the plans to bring about the long-expected MOVE OF HEADQUARTERS from Westminster to Tower Hill next year are being made known to Branches and will be given in these pages next month. There will be cause for thanksgiving when the aims of the long and difficult negotiations have been achieved and the hopes of Tubby and many other members realized.

☞ The CENTRAL EXECUTIVE, now newly elected by the Council, holds its first meeting during the week-end of May 8-10.

☞ KEYNOTE PROJECTS are the concern of many observant Branches in this fifth month of the two-year operation. If old projects are a strain and new ones seem out of the question, here is the means of spreading the load and so of doing much more 'building bravely'.

☞ KEYNOTE CONFERENCES in May, Hertfordshire; in June, Worcestershire; in July, Wiltshire; in September, Yorkshire and Lancashire; in October, Derbyshire and Cumberland.

☞ IONA WEEK, MAY 23-30: Apply to J. E. Taplin, Roxana, The Roseway, Saltburn-by-the Sea, Yorkshire.

☞ SPORTS in London at Battersea Park on May 30 and the Skegness Rally in Lincolnshire on May 30-31.

☞ The WINANT VOLUNTEERS for this year will arrive from the United States on June 17 and spend five days in Iona before travelling to London.

☞ HOLIDAY MEETINGS: A list of Branches welcoming visitors at their weekly meetings at seaside and other holiday resorts will be published next month.

☞ "PEOPLE TO PEOPLE": The Week of International Friendship throughout Britain will be held from November 22 to 28. (See "Keynotes for Keymen", Project No. 4.)

☞ OBERAMMERGAU, 1960: The Toc H Pilgrimage to the Passion Play at Oberammergau will leave London on May 29, 1960, and return on June 11. As bookings are likely to close on June 11 this year, all who wish to join should apply at once for details to O.P.P.P., 47, Francis St., London, S.W.1. At present there are places in the coach-parties for married couples and single men.

The Elder Brethren

With proud thanksgiving . . .

ATKINSON.—On March 15, ERNEST RICHARD ATKINSON, aged 64, a founder member of St. Just Branch. Elected 5.7.'52.

COLDWELL.—In February, Captain GODFREY T. COLDWELL, a member of the Central General Members Branch. Elected 1.12.'27.

COLLIARD.—On February 27, the Rev. FREDERICK EDWARD COLLIARD, aged 89, a member of Guernsey North Branch. Elected 3.7.'50.

DAWSON.—On December 26, FELIX NEEDHAM DAWSON, aged 80, a founder member of Kirkby Lonsdale Branch. Elected 11.5.'28.

DURRANT.—On March 23, ROBERT JAMES DURRANT, aged 68 a founder member of Sheringham Branch. Elected 28.7.'37.

DYKE.—In February, TOM ELMES DYKE, aged 43, a member of Milborne Port Branch. Elected 11.3.'36.

ELLIOT.—On March 20, GEORGE THOMPSON ELLIOT, a founder member of Alston Branch. Elected 30.11.'33.

FISHER.—On March 10, ALFRED FISHER, aged 60, a member of Bideford Branch. Elected 29.1.'58.

FOWLER.—On March 13, JAMES FOWLER, aged 71, a member of Walsden Branch. Elected 19.7.'48.

GEARY.—On March 5, CHARLES HAROLD GEARY, aged 68, a member of Lee Branch. Elected 11.10.'55.

GEEN.—On March 9, WILLIAM HENRY GEEN, aged 64, a member of Llanishen Branch. Elected 4.3.'47.

GLOVER.—In February, FRANK DIXON GLOVER, aged 50, a member of Southampton Branch. Elected 22.12.'41.

HITCHAM.—On February 22, JOSEPH HITCHAM, aged 68, a member of Ormesby Branch. Elected 22.3.'48.

KILGOUR.—On February 26, HARRY MOTLEY KILGOUR, aged 73, a founder member of Fulstow Branch. Elected 17.2.'48.

LEE.—On December 28, SAMUEL LEE, aged 69, a Manchester Area member. Elected 13.9.'35.

LLOYD.—On January 20, RUSSELL LLOYD, aged 58, a member of South Rhyl Branch. Elected 12.11.'50.

MANNING.—On March 17, HERBERT CHARLES MANNING, aged 74, a member of Norwich Branch. Elected 27.11.'33.

MCLEAN.—On March 23, CHARLES WILLIAM MCLEAN, aged 66, a member of Mitcham Branch. Elected 1.10.'55.

NEWNHAM.—On March 10, Colonel CHARLES COWAN NEWNHAM, D.S.O., aged 84, a member of Bath Branch. Elected 16.6.'31.

PARSONS.—On February 24, JOSEPH FRANK PARSONS, aged 56, a Western Area member. Elected 1.1.'25.

RILEY.—On January 21, ROBERT WHARTON RILEY, aged 83, a member of Consett Branch. Elected 5.7.'50.

TREVOR.—In March, Captain STEPHEN LLOYD TREVOR, aged 72, a member of the Central General Members Branch. Elected 1.6.'49.

In Memoriam

JOSEPH FRANK PARSONS

Toc H in Bristol will be very much the poorer for the passing of Joe Parsons. Despite the fact that for the last six or seven years he had been paralysed in both legs, his energy and drive was an inspiration to all members of the Joint Service Unit. This he formed to undertake the extra jobs of service at Christmas and in the summer, of giving pleasure in entertainments and outings to old and lonely folk. He remained responsible for running the Hospital Sales Trolley Service, which he initiated after his return from the War, for the patients at the Homoeopathic Hospital. It is true to say that there is hardly a member in and around Bristol who did not know of Joe. His was a merry soul.

W.F.B.

Time for Attack

WALLA MANDER

A SHORT WHILE AGO nearly all the staff at a local hospital for old people became victims of 'flu'. The hospital, like many others, was in serious need of help. As a result of 'Operation Octopus', recently carried out in the district, Toc H was able to put in motion a relay of helpers who answered to a high degree the immediate needs of the hospital.

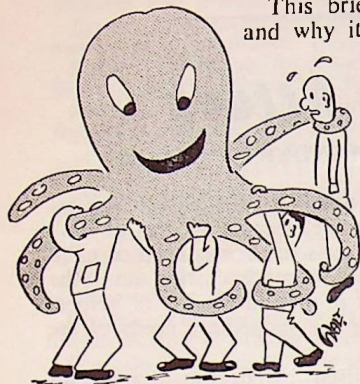
Because of 'Octopus', practised by Epsom Branch for nearly two years, we have come across many individual cases of folk in need: some old, some young, some rich, some poor, some lonely and some who wanted the opportunity to give help. But for 'Octopus' such information could never have been acquired. Sometimes the Branch answered the needs directly: frequently a network from outside help—large enough for the job—has been set up round the person or persons in trouble and then left to get on dealing with it, whilst we have kept in the background with a watchful eye to see that the plan does not fall down. We have received five new members and a multitude of friends . . . and we have only just begun to scratch the surface.

There are so many different types of people, so many different types of need, all requiring to be dealt with in different and individual ways. This is a statement; but immediately, it raises several questions. Where are the needs? Who are the needy? How does one find the needs? When found, how can one deal with them? Can Toc H alone, deal with them? And many others.

There is no doubt in my mind that the answer to all those questions can be found in 'Operation Octopus'—in the very heart of the people themselves, the public, the highways and byways of this breathing world.

Fine words, you say; a proper mouthful. But what is it all really supposed to mean? Can 'Octopus' really prove so effective a force? Those are startling claims for such a simple plan, how does it come about?

This briefly is the essence of 'Octopus' and why it is such a powerful force:



A Branch decides to carry out 'Octopus'

A road or district is selected and the names of the inhabitants having been secured from the Voters' List are each put at the top of a sheet of paper under which is typed a number of questions, e.g. What is the advantage of living in your area? Would you like any changes? Do you know of any cases of hardship, loneliness or people in any need?, etc. Having equipped yourself in this way, get out from the Branch room, onto the battlefield and get into the houses. This is one way, indeed the only effective way, of coming into contact with the four types of people who are so important to Toc H: the old, the young, the firm, and the infirm.

Having discovered a person in need, promise your help and then find somebody else to give that help. Toc H alone cannot possibly answer all the needs that exist and so it must tactfully guide the members of the public into realizing that there is a real need and that we are all responsible for each other. Therefore, it is equally important to 'dig out' folk who

are willing to give help (no matter how small) as it is to find those needing it. It would surprise many of us to discover just how great is the number of people who will give help when asked.

When the person interviewed does agree to help, say in an emergency, (a request to this effect should always be asked before leaving a house), follow up a few days later with an emergency which he can deal with. If an emergency does not exist—invent one. If this is not possible, draw him in on a job that you have been tackling for some time. If he has a car it should not take you long to find a situation in which he can use it. Whilst one should only use gentle pressure, the 'follow up' ought never be allowed to slip as it is perhaps the most important part in making 'Octopus' work.

There are no disadvantages to this plan: it is positive. And our thinking must never be negative. There are, it is true, some men who cannot do this job of 'door-knocking' and should not, for fear of doing more harm than good. However, the amount of men who think they cannot do this job and won't, is ridiculously high. If you haven't done it, get together and try it; it's not nearly so hard as you might think. It gets easier all the time.

Now, right now, is the time for Toc H to get out to the public, to burrow into the thick of them. This must be the plan for you and me.

How do I know that 'Octopus' is so good? Well, apart from the reasons I have given you, almost two thousand years ago a man, a carpenter, had a shot at doing a similar sort of thing and today people are still talking about it.

So get your coat, take a march down a street, any street, bowl up to a house, bang on the door. "Good evening . . . THIS IS TOC H!"

"No More Unclean!"

A limited number of copies of the above book by E. T. Lawson are available to members at half the published price of 16s. *No More Unclean!* is the unique and moving story based on the Toc H Branch at Westfort Leper Hospital, South Africa. Send P.O./Cheque for 8s. to Toc H Publications Dept., and it will be despatched to you, postage free.



From All Parts

direct from areas

SOUTHERN—Andover Branch are paying regular weekly visits to the nearby Army Preliminary Education Centre. They join in discussion groups and other social activities that take place during the evening, getting to know the new recruits. **Ferndown** Branch have now completed work on their new hut and are looking forward to its official opening this month. Rover Scouts in **Wimborne** have made their new home at "Talbot House", headquarters of the local Toc H Branch. More and more Branches are getting 'under weigh' with Keynotes and their Keymen are looking forward to the Warminster Conference in July. Don't forget the Traction Engine Rally and display of Veteran & Vintage Cars to be held at Chilcombe Manor Farm, Chilcombe, Winchester (just east of Winchester Bye-pass) at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. As well as the Rally there will be a number of attractive Side-shows.

FRED BROOKER.

SCOTLAND—Prestwick Branch meeting on March 13 was a red letter one. The Founder Padre, who had arrived in the Clyde on an oil tanker, heard that Prestwick meet on Tuesdays and decided to call on them. Some of the members had the pleasure of hearing and meeting Tubby for the first time, and this spontaneous gesture of his will long be remembered. Sam Moffat in thanking Tubby also took the opportunity of wishing Johnnie MacMillan all success and happiness in his new Area, and hoped that on many occasions he would venture forth from Bristol to Scotland. Charles Young and Johnnie MacMillan met in **Berwick** and did some visits to interested men. It is obvious that Toc H is needed in this town and there was a real interest and warmth in the contacts established. **Coupar Angus** opened their new rooms last month, when they were supported at the house-warming by a good gathering of men and women members.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

SOUTH WESTERN—Two forthcoming events for Branches to put in their diaries—and remember! **Exeter** Branch (plus help from the rest of East Devon District) Fete in the Palace Grounds, Exeter on Saturday May 30. Thousands of members and non-members will remember 42, St. Davids Hill, Exeter, and the help and kindness they received there during the last war when "42" was known throughout the south-west as a haven of rest and comfort. Now money is needed to restore and repair the house, and Exeter Branch hope to raise enough on May 30 to make a good job of it. Bill Wood, 42 St. Davids Hill, Exeter, will be glad to hear of any help you can give. Members and non-members will be very welcome at the Toc H Stand at the Royal Cornwall Show on June 9 and 10. This is a combined effort by the whole of Toc H in Cornwall to make known something of the job the Movement tries to do within the County, and in the wider world.

GILBERT FRANCIS.

MANCHESTER—A happy celebration of the Toc H (Manchester) Rugby Football Club's 35th Anniversary was held on April 4 at the Waldorf Hotel, Manchester, when about 110 joined the President at Dinner. Speeches were made by Michael Dutch, captain of the "A" XV, who proposed the Toc H toast, to which John Callf replied. Peter Unna proposed the toast to the Rugby Football Union to which J. Reginald Locker replied. The toast to the Club was given by Kenneth R. Isherwood, chairman of Leigh R.U.F.C. and Harold Sadler, captain of the 1st XV responded. The final toast of the evening to the guests was in the hands of Harry Bettenev, and Leslie Mortlock and Steve Regis made suitable replies. Derrick Brown, Captain of the "B" XV, was an excellent toast-master.



Biggleswade Chronicle

Sandy Branch members at supper with friends from Biggleswade and Bedford Branches

WESTERN—Cirencester Branch report a very happy relationship between themselves and the boys of a nearby Approved school—the Branch visiting the school and the boys in turn visiting the Branch for special meetings. **Gloucester** District reports a very successful Training Afternoon for Branch officers when they split up into groups of individual officers, spending the first hour in discussing the varied problems of the office. A fine feeling of fellowship was evident, and some of those present met each other for the first time. The **Mid Fosse** District and the **Gloucester** District have recently held District Guest-nights when Geoff. Martin, Overseas Secretary, was the speaker—Gloucester say he did not talk for long enough! A Flag Day and Dance organized by **Calne** Branch raised over £100 on March 21 for the Cheshire Foundation Home at Kington Langley. **Milton** Branch members helped to staff the Male Wards of their local hospital recently when the staff were mostly down with 'flu. The Area is eagerly looking forward to the arrival in July of Johnnie MacMillan. He will be speaking at **Glastonbury's** Silver Jubilee Guest Night on May 1. Branches in the Area are now sending in their gifts for the Alexandra Rose Day Market for the Toc H Stall. The Market has been arranged to publicize the organizations taking part in the annual Rose Day collections, and also to enable them to raise even more money for their varied causes. Next month Alexandra Rose Day collections will be taken by Branches in **Bristol**, **West Mendip** and **Bath** Districts. Branches are beginning to send in some news—tentative for the most part—of Keynote activity.

BURTON HEATHCOTE.



South Wales Argus

The Archbishop of Wales with members of Newport Branch

SOUTH WALES—Over seventy members from fifteen Branches in Monmouthshire and Glamorgan were present at a Guest-night at which **Newport** (Mon.) Branch was host and Padre Jim Davies, the Guest-speaker. Recently the Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev. Alfred Edwin Morris, a founder member of **Lampeter** Branch, visited Newport Branch and met members and friends, including members from **Cardiff** District and **Caerphilly**. Incidentally, Newport Film Unit is giving shows six nights a week while visits are also paid with a tape-recorder to give request programmes at the local Hospital and Old Folks' Home.

KEN WRIGHT.

NORTHERN LONDON—**Whetstone & Finchley** have given a party for blind people in North Finchley, at which the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress were present. **Devonshire Hill** are taking a personal interest in the work of the Youth Club run by the local Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. The group has also visited the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and entertained and was entertained by the Chelsea Pensioners. On leaving the group took with them an invitation to "Come-again", which they hope to do shortly.

MAYNE ELSON.

SUSSEX—A recommendation has been put forward for the recognition of a Joint Branch at **Battle**. New opportunities for service to the community have been taken as a result of joint meetings during the past twelve months. **Merstham** was the meeting point for the North Sussex District Guest-night. All credit is due to the Branch, the newest in the District, for the excellent arrangements made. The local Youth Club provided entertainment in the form of a Judo display and a Skiffle Group. As Guest Speaker, Alec Churcher was in good form. The Annual Dinner at **Uckfield** was a great success and provided a good opportunity for guests to share an evening with the Branch.

RON SMITH.

TOC H JOURNAL

KENT—The Sevenoaks District Dinner was a great success, not the least because the expected sausage and mash turned into roast pork and plum pudding. Dene Park Grammar School for Spastics has the warm-hearted and practical interest of **Tonbridge**. The big venture of preparing the site and digging out a swimming pool for the school has appealed to the imagination and hard work for which the Branch is reputed. A memorable occasion in the life of **Whitfield & Guston** was the presentation to them of the Lamp of Maintenance by David Wilson, Area Chairman. His listeners were left in no doubt about the significance and responsibility of receiving the Lamp. Home-going Prayers were said by the District Padre, Rex Coombs.

RON SMITH.



Keighley News

Members of South Craven District at a week-end training course

NOTTS & DERBY.—Congratulations and good wishes to Padre Bob Kenyon, Derby Mark Padre, on his marriage. He leaves us for a parish near Burton-on-Trent. Members of **Graeme** (Derby) Branch spread about 700 invitations around Allestree, Derby to a meeting in the Markeaton Hotel. "Please come, if only to throw a brick" said the invitation and over 30 people responded, but not with bricks. There are hopes that units, both Toc H and the Women's Association, will result. **West Hallam** brought together members from many parts to a real family gathering to celebrate its birthday on March 21. Members of the Branch living in **Ilkeston** are starting life on their own as a group and held their first meeting on April 20. **Scarsdale** District have planned a series of monthly District get-togethers stretching through the summer. Each Branch in turn becomes host and the form of gathering is to remain as mysterious as the sausage until eaten (we hope not afterwards as well). **Kirkby's** young members ran a concert for the Newstead Sanatorium on April 30. **Mansfield** Branch is also taking a party there during the month. A concert party from **Newark** went to Lowdham Grange Borstal Institution recently. An Area Gathering is to be held at **Bingham** on May 30 at which Bob Purdy will be chief guest. An Area variety show will be part of the programme.

LES WHEATLEY.

WESTERN LONDON—Wembley's Blind Club has celebrated its 13th birthday at an anniversary party held at the Branch's headquarters. During the evening even the Mayor could not resist joining in the "hokey-cokey"! **Borough of Barnes** group has now become a Joint Unit. The Secretary is W. J. (Bill) Bailey, 25, Palewell Park, S.W.14.

MAYNE ELSON.



Northern Despatch

Darlington members at their annual Branch Dinner

NORTHERN—Best wishes for the future and the way ahead to our two newest groups **Thornaby** and **Peterlee**. At a recent Area Executive meeting, and also two District Team meetings, Boy Scout Commissioners have spoken on practical methods of strengthening the relationship between Scouting and **Toe H**. **Toe H** was mentioned, together with other organisations in the town, at a meeting of the **Darlington Road Safety Sub-Committee** as a means of supply for instructors in a Safety Training Scheme for child cyclists. "Toe H and the Nuclear Power Age" was the theme at the recent Training Week-end arranged by **Teesside District**. The sessions were led by Dr. C. Rounthwaite, a member of the British Association of Science and also Iain Fraser, Lakeland Area Secretary. Those present discovered that **Toe H** and Nuclear Power had a lot in common. We welcome to our Northern Area Affiliated Schools List, Durham School and Morpeth Grammar School and hope that nearby Branches will keep local contact with their School Correspondents. **CHARLES V. YOUNG**.

EASTERN LONDON—About two years ago **Rochford Branch** first discussed the possibility of buying a coach in which they could take handicapped folk on trips to the seaside, into the country and to places of interest. Eventually they found a second-hand one, and have adapted it to take wheel-chairs accommodating about ten handicapped people. The cost of the coach has been covered by a bank loan guaranteed by two Branch members, together with a gift from the S.E. Essex District and help from local residents. The trips have begun and names of handicapped folk are being submitted by all Branches in the District. **Squibs Rockett**, who restarted **East Ham Branch** after the war, collects disused spectacles for the Friends of Vellore from every available source: from his Branch, from his workmates, from local organisations and from folk whom he sometimes stops in the street. So far he has collected over two thousand pairs. We wonder if this is a record?

JIM GREEN.

TOC II JOURNAL



Not too Late

GLANCING through the news *From All Parts* in last month's JOURNAL, an eye could not fail to notice the Branch that had gained ten potential members as the result of doing a job. Was this surprising? Not a bit of it! But if this had happened as the result of holding a meeting, we might have wondered: who was the speaker able to sway ten guests by telling them to go and do or be something? No, it seems that this Branch proved to some men that there was a need to *come* and help it to do and be something. It must have tickled these men's fancy to discover that they could be friendly and useful, so they wanted to see if they could be the same again.

Hasn't this much to do with what 'Keynotes' are for? To further the purposes of Toc H and to be used by Branches to that end? According to the news from another Area, 'this is the best thing that has come out of Toc H for years' is what some members are saying. 'The same discovery is being made by folk outside the Movement.' Where some thought is being given to it, 'things are beginning to warm up in the Keynotes field'.

Some members have been applying to attend a Keynote Conference, although their Branches are unwilling to select any Keymen. The Branch feels it is too occupied to release two of its men, either to give or to get. It is so full up that it has no time to take on any new jobs or to look around for help to improve its present jobs, which are bound to be part of one or other of the Keynote Projects. A modern Æsop would find it easy to compose a fable about the Channel Tunnellers who were so busy reaching France that they failed to notice that the rock they had been digging had blocked the tunnel behind them!

To another Branch, there is plenty of time, the demon says : 'there is no Keynote Conference for us till next year'. To time a two-year operation on one week-end makes a parody of the plan. While it is *not too late* for any Branch to go out now and find its two Keymen and then to get cracking, it can never be too soon.

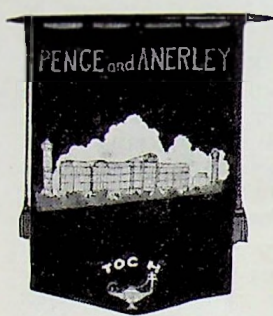
'For want of a nail, the shoe is lost . . . the horse . . . the rider is lost.' For want of a Keyman, the Branch may be lost. The Keyman gives point to the proceedings.

The news from another Area was that 'the majority of the Branches are well under way with their Keynotes planning and are now reaching out in action'. This is the goods!

Branch Banners

XXXVII — PENGE & ANERLEY

Contributed by Ron. Buckman



BRANCH status was acquired in 1937, when our Lamp was first lit by Lord Halifax at York. With the outbreak of war in 1939 our members, who were young in years as well as Toc H experience, were called up almost en bloc, and as our efforts to continue were of no avail, the Lamp was handed back. In October 1947 Penge & Anerley Branch was re-born and 'Greeno' brought us back the original Lamp in October 1948.

It was natural for us to choose as motif for our Banner a reproduction of Paxton's Great Crystal Palace, which for so many years had dominated the scene in South-East London, particularly Penge & Anerley. Before disaster and destruction overcame it, the Palace was not unknown to members of Toc H, for in its spacious grounds was held the 21st Birthday of Toc H, when the late Duke of Kent lit the Lamps of newly formed Branches.

Love in Action

REGINALD I. CROWL

IN RECENT YEARS the problem of mental deficiency has been brought into the light of day. Those afflicted in this way have always been with us, but from a misguided sense of shame their parents or guardians have kept them away from contact with other people.

The public is now learning, however, that there is no essential difference between defect of the brain and defect of a purely physical nature, such as blindness or lameness, and the authorities, impelled by the strength of public opinion, are consequently able to provide more training facilities for the mentally handicapped than in other days. But there is one facet of their lives where authority is able to do little or nothing for them—that is in their social contacts.

After their childhood according to physical age is past, these young men and women often have to spend the rest of their lives in utter frustration, unable to mix on equal terms with those of normal mentality and with no opportunity for social intercourse among themselves. They suffer the misery of being *in* a community but not *of* it.

Getting together

Men and women from all walks of life have been getting together during the last few years to seek a remedy for this unhappy situation, and as a result of their discussions the idea of Youth Clubs for the Mentally Handicapped has been born. The vigorous campaign launched by the Bexleyheath Club has already resulted in the establishment of similar clubs in the south-eastern counties, and as the idea spreads it will doubtless meet with greater response.

One of the five clubs so far established in the Greater London area is that of Edmonton. None of the organizers of this club can recollect just how the idea first arose, but they acknowledge their indebtedness to a number of people interested in the club project whose advice and experience has been made freely available. They spent nine months in collecting ideas and laying plans and were delighted to find that the County Health authority and the local education

committee were most anxious to help. The Edmonton Youth Officer, in particular, was a tower of strength to them. But all along there was one big question—would there be enough suitable helpers, enough young people with a sufficiently warm-hearted sympathy with the mentally handicapped to implant just the right spirit of comradeship, which would make the members feel that here, at last, was a fellowship to which they could *belong*?

Well, there were enough, and their number is growing. Every Monday evening they come to perform this labour of love. For two hours they turn the hall into a place of happiness unalloyed for these handicapped youths and maidens, as with infinite patience they teach them to participate in the games and other social activities which are the delight of young people everywhere. To watch them at work is a truly moving experience.

Sense of achievement

Have you ever seen a mentally handicapped youth trying to play table tennis? If so, you may possibly have been inclined to turn away with a shrug. But wait—see how his eye sparkles as the ball comes to meet him, the pleasure when he succeeds in hitting it, the laughter when he misses it—for note, please, there is no pique in these young people. They are not playing to win, for winning or losing is all the same to them; they are playing for the sheer joy of it and for the sense of achievement when they can do something which other people do. And if you can take pleasure in *their* pleasure, you will understand something of the reason why fine, healthy young men and women in full possession of their faculties are willing to play with them.

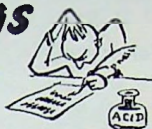
This is *their* club. That is what makes it so valuable to them. It is called the "Settlers Club". How the name was derived does not matter for the purpose of this article, but the organizers think it is a sufficiently general title to become of wider use among clubs for the mentally handicapped, and they even envisage that one day it may become the term to denote a great social movement. For the time being, at any rate, it serves the purpose of a label for which a badge is justified. And as they see a club member striding along, head up and chest thrust forward to give everyone an opportunity of seeing the badge he wears, they know that there the club is doing valuable work.

Not long ago it was found that a young fellow wished to join the club but, like many of the members, he was unable to make the journey alone. It was therefore arranged that one of the helpers would call for him a little before club opening time. It was a cold evening, and he was surprised to find the lad standing outside his house. On enquiry it was discovered that he had been there over an hour, waiting, with who knows what mixture of hopes and fears, for the great experience which was going to mean so much to him. Nothing would induce him to return indoors, lest he should miss it.

There are many like him all over the country, but they are still waiting, waiting . . .



Open Hustings readers' letters



The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H and asks that they be written briefly and to the point. Effort is made to include a representative selection, and they are printed as individual view-points, not necessarily those of the Movement as a whole.

Freddie Domone

I SOMEHOW go on thinking about Freddie, one of the most loved figures in Toc H. First, a buck Private in the R.A.S.C. then a disgruntled and (sometimes) bitter chauffeur: then Mark II Marksman, picked by Harry Willink, sharing the first Memorial Room with him, then Secretary, Mark VII, then Prideaux's partner, then Scouting came, then war and Westminster Club. Finally Belra and the Sage at Barnet. I feel a two-line tribute may revive our common consciousness of debt to him. So here it is, for the JOURNAL, if you wish!

"His strength can uphold,
and His love can atone".

Was the Epilogue whisper'd
by Freddie Domone
TUBBY.

Holiday Help

WOULD ANY readers of the JOURNAL like to offer hospitality to a child, preferably in the school holidays?

Each year Family Service Units—a voluntary organization with Centres in many parts of the country—arranges holidays in private homes for children from the families it is assisting. They are families who are so overwhelmed

by their problems and so unable to make use of the normal social services that the welfare of their children is in danger.

Family Service Units attempts to help the parents cope with their many difficulties by their own efforts. With people at the end of their tether this may be a long process and in the meantime a holiday in a good home and happy surroundings can be of real benefit to the children. Unfortunately we are not able to offer payment but we do meet fares.

Offers should be sent to me at the address below and I shall be pleased to supply further information on request.

DAVID JONES, O.B.E.

*Family Service Units,
25, St. Mary's Grove, N.I.*

Poliomyelitis Vaccinations

IT WAS announced last autumn that the offer of vaccination against poliomyelitis had been extended to those born in the years 1933-42. The incidence of poliomyelitis in this age group is, it is true, somewhat less than in childhood. On the other hand, the degree of paralysis among those who do contract the disease is more severe. It is therefore obviously desirable for older children and young adults to obtain for themselves the protection which vaccination can afford and that is why priority is being given to them. In spite, however, of publicity and the local arrangements made for offering vaccination, there are still very many who have not come forward.

The local administration of the poliomyelitis vaccination programme is in the hands of the local health authorities, that is County Councils and County Borough Councils. All those persons born in or since 1933 who wish to be vaccinated but who

have not yet seen local authority announcements telling them how to go about it should get in touch either with their own doctors, their nearest clinic or their local authority public health department.

The local health authorities themselves should be able to supply to clubs and groups posters or other material suitable for display in their premises and could perhaps be approached by local secretaries.

W. JUDD,
*Ministry of Health,
London, W.I.*

Helping Homebound

MAY I draw the attention of your readers to two W.V.S. schemes connected with the homebound.

The first is Meals on Wheels—delivering hot mid-day meals to old people in their own homes. In some places, particularly in the London area, W.V.S. are finding difficulty in obtaining drivers to take the meals to the old people and would welcome the help of men volunteers who could give one or more mornings a week to this work.

The other scheme is—"Spare a Mile", through which W.V.S. aim to put motorists into touch with crippled or handicapped children, elderly people and others who would greatly appreciate a drive in a car. Motorists are asked to "bank" a certain number of miles each month with the local W.V.S. Centre who will then put them into direct touch with someone whom they could help in this way. Motorists will not be called upon to do anything further and are left to make their own arrangements with the individuals whose names they are given.

Further information may be obtained from any W.V.S. Centre or from this Headquarters.

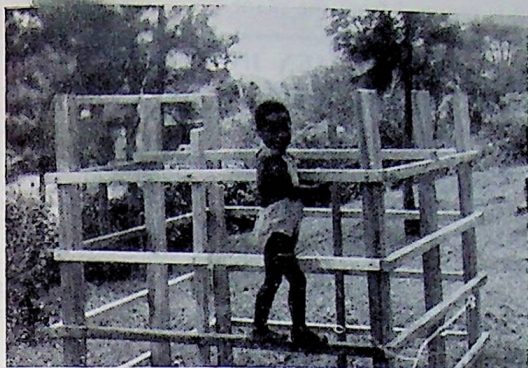
ELSA DUNBAR,
41 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1.



Far Cry

overseas notes

GEOFF MARTIN



A climbing box constructed by the Mengo group, Uganda, at the Sanyu Babies' Home in which the members are actively interested

"THIS IS YOUR LIFE".

How do members spend their days? Those who are urbanized and caught up in the rush of life may envy Padre Halliday at his Mission in North Queensland. Some may not. But this description of his domestic scene is fascinating to read.

"For the last four years I have been the chaplain at an Aboriginal Mission on the west coast of Cape Yorke Peninsula. Here we have about 280 full blood aboriginals, of whom only 160 are baptized and of these 65 are confirmed members of the Church. Our nearest neighbour is our sister Anglican mission, some 70 miles to the south. To the north there are three Presbyterian missions. My wife, as well as looking after four young children, is the nursing sister. There is also a Superintendent and his wife and young family. Today our last boat for the year is here, and so all are busy unloading

our supplies for "the wet". Our next boat is not until late April or early May next year, so we have to make sure that we have enough supplies to keep us going for that period—we cannot go to the "corner shop" should the larder become empty. Our mail comes per light aircraft, once a month from Cooktown—on the east coast of the Cape. During this same period it cannot land, as we have only a temporary landing strip—a salt pan, about two miles from the mission, and in the wet this is usually about five feet under water; and so the mail is dropped from the plane."

SERVICEMEN IN CYPRUS

When the Club in Nicosia closed some months ago, the political settlement was not in sight. The few scattered members of the Toc H Services group hoped to continue as a corporate entity but this has proved in practice to be difficult. In discussing the future of Toc H in Cyprus, John Jackson, a Service member, had some interesting things to say. This is an extract from his letter:—

"At present there is a certain amount of ill-will between soldiers and Greeks. It is aggravated by the insults and bravado of some of the thugs who are only now creeping out of their hide-outs. It is also aggravated by the feelings of the soldiers who see in these young toughs the men who shot, bombed and burned their comrades. The result is occasional outbursts of fighting, especially here in Famagusta. But I believe this will pass, especially as the more seasoned soldiers leave for home, and it will pass soon.

Now it is Spring in Cyprus, and I think Colonel Elliot will know what that means. The greenness, the spring flowers on the mountains, the clear, warm days—it seems like an omen for this wretched island. The older folk we meet are smiling again and welcome us, as they used to four or five years ago. But there is another side of the picture. I honestly cannot see how this island can hope to prosper when the Army is reduced to its probable 5,000, as shopkeepers, merchants—in fact everyone—must feel the loss of revenue from the soldiers and their families. I think the older folk realize this and are not happy about it, but of course the younger generation blindly proclaim their new "Freedom" and are content.

Finally, to return to Toc H affairs. Eventually the main part of the garrison will be concentrated at Dhekelia, on the South coast of the Island. I think if Toc H is to prosper, our efforts should be directed toward establishing a group there as soon as possible. Another base will be the Akrotiri area, where the R.A.F. will muster. Again this should be a target for Toc H, especially as the past shows that in the Middle East at least, the R.A.F. has been one of the major Toc H recruiting sources. I believe that it is essential to have a full time Toc H staff man on the island to keep things going, if

that is possible. I believe that he should get out and about to the units, making contacts and acting, if you like, as a recruiting officer. There is a wealth of Toc H material in the Services if we can only tap it, as has been shown by Toc H in Egypt and Cyprus. At present most of our recruits are National Servicemen and many of them go back to Civvy Street as members and continue to spread the Movement. But when we settle down to our Regular Army in a couple of years time, the recruits will still be there, *if we go out and find them*. But it is not enough for the odd itinerant Serviceman-member to do so, we should have fixed "recruiters" wherever the Services are, to keep it going. At home, groups near camps can do it. Overseas, we must have staff-men.

How do we Serve?

The Southern African Council have resolved that over the next two years Toc H members in South Africa should receive a planned course of study at Unit and Area level with the declared purpose of convincing them that the biggest contribution Toc H has to make in South Africa is to train its members to acknowledge the worth and value of every man irrespective of colour, with the aim of removing all trace of colour discrimination from Toc H practice in South Africa. This study course commenced with a specially commissioned article in "The Compass" which we are glad to be enabled to share with the wider Family.

MANKIND would be infinitely the poorer without the many spontaneous or planned acts of kindness and helpfulness that are done each day. They sweeten human relationships and not infrequently restore hope when hope is rapidly disappearing. However, I want, in this brief article, to consider another aspect of service.

Every person has within himself certain inherent capacities and abilities, and a certain inherent dignity. If through any reason of limitation he is denied the realization of these inherent capacities or abilities, and is robbed of his essential dignity, he becomes a starved personality. Only too often the sense of loss creates a sense of inner frustration, leading to bitterness. The personality becomes starved and sour. Also, quite apart from the loss to the individual, no society can afford to lose the proper use of the gifts of its members.

A Freer World

The greatest act of service that can be performed is to open for people the gateway into a wider and freer world. This may appear academic, isolated from reality, and theoretical. For

it can be so easily argued: "What can an individual do to bring this about? Rather is it the work of society." But society is no more than a collection of individuals, and until the individuals are concerned about this, society can do nothing. It can also be argued that it is the work of the specialist, or expert. But once again the work of the specialist and the expert is controlled by society. That is, to a certain extent, what we mean by democracy. In a democracy no leader can be too far removed from the wishes and the values of the society he represents. Therefore it is the responsibility of members to society to be aware of the stresses and strains that go to make up society and which inhibit the full and free development of so many members of that society.

Meeting the Challenge

Once this challenge is realized there are a variety of attitudes that can be adopted. The first is to run away from it, as being impossible of solution. The second is to avoid it, as the solution of it may so disturb the present form of society that an instinctive conservatism rejects the solution before it is even known; and an inner desire to retain privilege inhibits honest thought. The third way is to think just of an individual, and to offer help to one, and to ignore the vast social problem of which the individual is but a representative.

The third way is the best so far but, alas, so often, in attempting to meet the proper needs of the individual, one is faced with despair because between the desire to help and the fulfilment of satisfactory help stand all the serried ranks of economic and social laws expressed in political legislation and in custom.

The fourth way, and the one I want to consider, will lead us into a wider field of service. It is the determination to work so that to every man lies open the possibility of free and full development. To a certain extent this will take us into the sphere of the specialist. First of all we shall have to consider what is meant by the word "man". Then we shall have to explore what effects different types of environment have upon men. We shall be thinking in terms of types rather than individuals. We shall be considering the impact of certain types of environment in general terms, and not so much in terms of specific instances. To do this we shall need the services of anthropologist, biologist, historian, dietician, economist and theologian. Although I have placed the theologian last, he is

among the most important. For a consideration of man and his environment is a profoundly theological matter. As Christians we must ever be seeking to express the values taught by Christ in those human relationships which are covered by the terms "economics" and "politics". Such questions as "How can I love my neighbour as myself?" and "Who is my neighbour?" must be answered socially as well as individually. Our Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven" must be considered as controlling governmental decisions as well as personal decisions. The prayer that "All may be one" must be reflected in the totality of human relationships as well as in private friendships and loyalties.

Preparation

The first step in this act of service, and possibly the most difficult, will be that of study. Fortunately there are a number of excellent, cheap books which will help us. The great difficulty is that study has no great attraction. It does not appeal to the emotions and, except for that rare bird, the scholar, demands a severe act of discipline. I have no wish to minimize this. It is a far cry from the earlier emphasis of Toc H upon the small personal job. But in this country there is nothing so important. South Africa is being divided by the sharp two-edged sword of race relations. To assess the arguments and counter-arguments in the light of truth is the great need. Everything else fades into insignificance. To do this, we must be honest with ourselves. We must free our own thinking from fear. We must, as far as is possible, remove from our minds all bias, prejudice and all preconceived ideas.

The service of humanity for us is the deep penetrating service of an understanding of the term "man" apart from the unscientific, political and emotional jargon of "race". It is to know and understand man apart from the confused view of the master-race psychology or the limited view of the master-servant complex. It is to strive for the fulfilment of man as man without any preconceived concept of what a man can or cannot be or can and cannot do.

Opportunism

In past history, human development has been, in the main, unplanned. It has been the violent seizing of opportunity. Those who felt thwarted and oppressed by society, the "have-nots", sought to gain freedom and privilege from those whom we may call "the haves". Those in turn saw themselves as

the saviours of society, the preservers of the culture handed down to them in sacred trust from the past. Thus right was seen to be on both sides and God was called upon to support both sides. We see in contemporary society the same struggle going on in many parts of the world and in much of Africa. It may be too late to prevent the same violent opportunism taking place in South Africa. But even this factor does not take away from us our responsibility to work for a society that will not lie with a heavy hand upon so many of its members.

It may be that, as we study, we shall be filled with the desire "To grasp this sorry scheme of things entire. . . And remould it nearer to the heart's desire." If this is so, then follows our next line of action. But until we know, we can only act blindly. We need the light of truth to show us where to act. We need the power of love to show us how to act.

Service in Fellowship

Such a form of service as I have sought to outline can best be done in fellowship. It is in fellowship that we shall most easily free our minds of prejudice and bias. It is in fellowship that we shall encourage one another. Fellowship would appear to be the way of God. Christ formed a fellowship of His first followers. Christ promised that where two or three would be gathered together that He would be in the midst of them. Therefore in the way of God let us seek to work for the Kingdom of God in the wills of men and in the social expression of man's life.

Lifted from "The Compass", February, 1959.

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